



Kate Carnell MLA

Chief Minister

Australian Capital
Territory

\$591,000 CAPITAL WORKS FUNDING FOR THE ARTS

Chief Minister Kate Carnell has announced the ACT Government will spend \$591,000 in the 2000-2001 capital works program on arts and cultural facilities and enlivening Canberra with public art.

The funding includes:

- \$350,000 for the public art program;
- \$100,000 on revitalising Gorman House Arts Centre;
- \$96,000 for improvements to the Nolan Gallery at Lanyon and Lanyon Homestead;
- \$45,000 on forward design for a contemporary glass industry development centre.

"The public art program helps make our public places and special events more vital and interesting by including artworks. It also makes Canberra a more attractive city to live in and visit, and provides exposure for local artists," Mrs Carnell said.

The ACT Government has provided ongoing funding to the public art program since 1995. The 2000-2001 capital works funds will go towards the Art and Soul – City Walk Sculpture Program and for the design and some construction of a variety of sculpture and art works for several sites in Civic, Tuggeranong and Belconnen.

The funding for Gorman House will provide for essential maintenance works and a feasibility study into improving the functionality of one of the ACT's oldest public buildings.

"For more than a decade, Gorman House has been home to a thriving arts centre, offering community space to artists and arts organisations. The last major refurbishment of Gorman House was in 1981, and a recent condition survey identified that significant maintenance work is now timely," Mrs Carnell said.

Mrs Carnell said that \$96,000 had been provided in the capital works program for improvements to the Nolan Gallery and Lanyon Homestead.

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"The ACT is very lucky to be home to the Nolan Gallery. Sir 'Sidney' Nolan donated his 'Foundation' Collection to the people of Australia on the understanding that it would be held and displayed at Lanyon," Mrs Carnell said.

The Commonwealth Government owns the collection, which, with associated works at the gallery, is valued at approximately \$8 million, and the Commonwealth partially funds the ACT Government to manage the collection. The Nolan Gallery was built especially to house the Sir Sidney Nolan 'Foundation' Collection in 1980, and the building is now in serious need of an upgrade to remove any potential risks to the collection from water and internal environmental conditions.

The Chief Minister said funds have also been made available to move to the next stage in assessing the viability of a contemporary glass industry development centre.

"We have provided \$45,000 for forward design to the preliminary sketch plan stage, and to prepare a functional brief for the centre. This will involve assessing a range of design options," Mrs Carnell said.

"Canberra is already internationally recognised for its excellence in contemporary glass and a glass centre would provide local artists with opportunities to capitalise on this reputation for excellence.

"Glass artists need specialist equipment and facilities for glass blowing, kiln-forming, lamp-working and cutting and engraving glass. A glass centre would provide local artists with these facilities and equipment right here in Canberra so they don't have to move elsewhere."

Mrs Carnell said the initiatives being funded implement the ACT's arts development strategy, *Arts Capital*.

"Our vision in *Arts Capital* is for a city rich in artistic and cultural life, a source of pride to residents and an attractive destination for visitors. These initiatives meet our objectives of having arts as a feature of our public places, maximising the potential of arts facilities and stimulating a viable and growing arts industry."

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